

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph after the Descriptive Title of the Invention and before the Background of the Invention.

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/897,759 filed June 29, 2001, currently pending.

Please replace the first paragraph beginning on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

One example of the type of labeling file folders which is available in the prior art is presently being marketed under the ColorBar® trademark by Smead Mfg. Co. That product essentially comprises self adhering labels provided in roll format or on a sheet which may be as large as 8 ½ by 11 inches and have multiple labels for convenient processing by a printer such as a laser printer, typically under computer control, with custom software also being provided. This product has become to be known as "strip labels" as they take the form of a strip which is approximately twice as wide as the tab and printable on both sides to allow the strip label to be adhered to and cover both sides of the tab. While this product, and other similar products, have allowed for the customized printing of labels that may then be applied to the various types of business forms including file folders, they have been further improved to solve issues that have developed with their use.

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

One such issue has been the unevenness with which these strip labels have been applied to the folders, thereby interfering with the "eyeballing" of a row of files to locate files that are out of place and otherwise making it difficult to locate a particular file due to the "inconsistent" appearance of the file labels. As it is desired for files to be kept neat and organized, an "inconsistent" appearance detracts from that goal. To solve this problem, there has been developed at least one method in the prior art for consistently aligning the labels as they are applied to the folder tab. That form and method is presently being marketed under the ClickStrip™ trademark by Smead Mfg. Co, and may be the subject of a pending patent application.

Please replace the first paragraph beginning on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Still another issue which has arisen through the use of these types of labels is the propensity for the customized labeling to be worn away by the constant handling of the file by the strip label, which covers the file tab. As the tab sticks out from what is typically the side or top of the folder, it becomes a convenient "handle" for the user to grasp the file for removing it from, or replacing it back into, its location within the drawer or shelf. This usage induces an inordinate amount of wear on the pre-printed color bars or bar code or other identifying indicia as a person's fingers have contaminants such as perspiration, hand lotion, and other such substances which contact the face of the label and have a deleterious affect thereon. Furthermore, in some instances, the file may be difficult to remove or replace due to the crowding of the file folders so that some appreciable gripping force is applied, and the users fingers may slip, thereby "smearing" the label as the user attempts to move the file. Again, there has been at least one solution arrived at in the prior art which entails a separate sheet of lamination strips that are sized to cover the face, or one side, of the label strip after it has been printed and before it is removed from its backing sheet. Should the strip labels have been prepared a sheet at time, a sheet of laminating strips may also be applied to the sheet of strip labels in a single application. This technique allows for the application of laminating strips to a plurality of labels in one operation. The laminating strip may have an edge which extends beyond the edge of the strip label, assuming they are aligned properly as the laminating strip is applied to the strip label, with adhesive applied to the edge as an aid in applying the strip/lamination matrix to the file folder tab. However, that alignment issue is only addressed in the context of the aforementioned full sheet having multiple strip labels and separate full sheet having multiple matching laminating strips. As can be appreciated, these separate sheets require extra material, at extra cost. As the lamination material would generally require a lamination carrier, and lamination material is relatively expensive, this solution does represent a significant additional expense. Furthermore, separate sheets of strip labels and laminating strips have to be handled by a staff person in order to assemble the strip labels, which takes time and effort. Unless proper care is taken, it is entirely possible and even likely that the laminating strips will not be properly aligned thereby detracting from the desired overall neatness of appearance, not even considering that improperly aligned laminating strips could result in premature peeling of the strip label/laminating strip from the file tab and thus failure of the strip label.

Please replace the third paragraph beginning on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

A view of the top layer of face stock for the second embodiment 60 is shown in Figure 4 and a view of the laminating layer is shown in Figure 5. In this second embodiment 60, a first die cut 62 in the face stock layer 64 defines a dummy label 66 while a second die cut 68 defines the actual strip ~~layer~~ label 70, immediately beneath it. It is noted that dummy label 66 and strip label 70, and the respective die cuts 62, 68, are substantially aligned such that should the second embodiment form 60 be folded along a fold or perforated or score line 72, strip label 70 would fit within the opening formed upon removal of dummy label 66 from within its die cut 62. To facilitate this very action, it is noted that a preferable size for dummy label 66 is approximately 1/16" larger in each direction than the corresponding dimension for strip label

70 which is 8"x1½". Referring to Figure 5, it is noted that a laminating strip 74 is defined by an associated die cut 76 above a fold or perforated or score line 78 which corresponds to the fold/perforated/ score line 72 in the face stock layer 64. The laminating strip 74 is formed from a laminating material and is part of the laminating layer 80, as is similarly found in the first embodiment explained above. It is also noted that a preferred size of the laminating strip 74 is approximately ¼" larger in each dimension over the strip label 70 dimensions, and a corresponding 3/16" larger in each dimension over the dummy label 66 dimensions. With the construction of the second embodiment 60, a less complex patterned adhesive/release layer coating may be used than that of the first embodiment. Preferably, a layer of adhesive underlies the top half of the laminating layer 80 while a release coating underlies the top half of face stock layer 64. This is reversed for the lower half of the second embodiment 60 in that adhesive is applied to the bottom half of face stock layer 64 and a release coating applied to the bottom half of laminating strip layer 80. Thus, in essence, alternating strips of adhesive and release coating are applied to each of the layers 64, 80 as the layers are joined to form the second embodiment 60 as shown in Figures 4 and 5.